

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8, 10-19 and 38 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 15 were each amended to more clearly recite the present invention and claim 19 was amended to correct minor informalities. New claim 38 was added to present original dependent claim 6 in independent form. Claims 9 and 20 were cancelled. Further, claims 21-37 were all withdrawn from this application for subsequent presentation in a divisional application.

No new matter was added. Withdrawal of all objections and rejections is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth below.

Claim Rejections and Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action dated May 26, 2005, claims 1-5, 8 and 10-19 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by US Patent 6,725,693. However, in paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 6, 7, 9 and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were considered allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 was amended to include all the limitations of claim 9, which was originally dependent on claim 1. As such, claim 1 as amended is equivalent to claim 9 rewritten in independent form, and is therefore allowable. Claims 2-8 and 10-14 each depend from claim 1, and as claim 1 as amended is allowable, claims 2-8 and 10-14 are also allowable.

Claim 15 was amended to include all the limitations of claim 20, which was originally dependent on claim 1. As such, claim 15 as amended is equivalent to claim 20 rewritten in independent form, and is therefore allowable. Claims 16-19 each depend from claim 15, and as claim 15 as amended is allowable, claims 16-19 are also allowable.

Patentability of New Claim 38

As stated in paragraph 4 and discussed above, claim 6 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was considered allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the present Amendment, new claim 38 was added and includes all the limitations of originally filed claim 6 (which was dependent upon claim 1) and original base claim 1. Therefore, new claim 38 is equivalent to original claim 6 presented in independent form, and is therefore allowable.

Conclusion

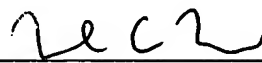
Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending in the present Application are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of pending claims is therefore respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes an interview, either telephonic or in person, will advance the prosecution of this matter, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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